

October 31, 2005

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, SW, Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

**In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrator's Board of
Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45.**

Dear Secretary Dortch:

The Alaska Telephone Association enthusiastically supports the nomination by Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative of Jason Williams for the USAC Board of Directors seat representing incumbent local exchange carriers with annual revenues of less than \$40 million. Mr. Williams' experience with Blackfoot and other small rural ILECs, as well as his time working in the office of Commissioner Martin, lead us to believe that he will provide an active small-ILEC presence with a strong sense of rural commitment at USAC.

Sincerely,

James Rowe